offer my services, but if I can be of the least use in any way, I shall be most happy to do all in my power for the benefit of a paper conducted on the very benevolent and truly philanthropic principles of THE BUILDER.

GRATIA DEI SUM QUOD SUM.

Leamington, 30th September, 1843.

STRENGTH, ACTIVITY, AND LOW WAGES!!!

SIR,—In THE BUILDER of last week, to my astonishment, I read an advertisement comprising the above-stated qualities, and wages one guinea per week, from a young man who professes to be a joiner seeking employment; but he does not possess the spirit of a joiner, or worthy to be recognized in the society of mechanics.

I have read with pleasure the remarks by you on this class of the building profession, but read with regret the step taken by this young man. I thought it scarcely possible a young man could possess so mean a spirit, a spirit of the worst description, and one that I hope no other will copy as an example, but will treat it with contempt, and not try to reduce the earnings of the industrious by such proceedings. There are masters ever ready to embrace such characters, but I trust they are in general more open to feelings of humanity than to support such principles. If this young man gave it a moment's reflection, his conscience would, I think, have prevented him from adopting this course, which cannot fail of securing him a master. He is possessed of all a master can require, *strength and activity*, (a good recommendation for a *white slave*); such being the case, he drives the mechanic that has served his apprenticeship with honour and credit to his master and himself from his employment, renders him destitute, while around him his family cries for *bread*. He must then work for the same wages, live on a starving pittance, or spend the remainder of his days in the workhouse or bastile of the present age. I hope to see the time speedily arrive when such characters will be excluded from all society, and both old and young men will support the present rate of wages, not render themselves the slaves of a tyrant, or one who advocates such principles, but stand firmly as men for their rights, and not submit one after another to such base robbery. If you think this deserving a space in THE BUILDER, you would oblige a subscriber by inserting it. Thinking it my duty to expose such unmanlike actions of reducing wages,

I remain yours, &c., truly,

TORUS.

[It will be seen by our remarks in another place what we think of the foregoing letter, and the reason for inserting it. We have made no alterations in it, or done any thing to disguise its spirit and character. We prefer the honest avowal of sentiments to any studied or skilful hypocrisies; but for all that, we do not run into the other extreme. We are not in love with avowed viciousness; still, if we see it, we know what we have to deal with, and may have a chance of correcting it.—ED.]

COUNTRY HOUSES OR COTTAGES.

SIR,—In your 32nd No. of THE BUILDER, I observe a communication, accompanied with drawings, from a correspondent who signs "Johannes," and as the whole cost of erection was not to exceed 300*l.*, it induced me to pay more than ordinary attention to it, the result of which is that if it could be built for the sum stated, I think no one would ever lay out his money in such a manner. In the first place, the staircase being in the centre of the house, and buildings on each side of the house, there can be no light or ventilation but from a skylight in the roof. The staircase being only six feet wide will not admit of a well-hole, consequently very little light will reach the ground story.

2nd. There are, I observe, two passages, one on each side the parlour; this compels him to carry the flue from the parlour chimney on an arch over the passage into the side wall.

3rd. If this passage is not to be covered further than the stairs, there must of necessity be a door at that part, so that the kitchen will be detached, and the servant must bring the dinners, &c., through perhaps a heavy rain. If the passage be covered, there will be no light but from the doors, for a length of 36 feet.

4th. The sitting-room has no window (rather an unusual thing), but a door opening into the yard (not at all a pleasant thing). This brings me to the kitchen itself, which is drawn only 7 feet by 9 feet, also without a window.

5th. The closet on the first story for a shower-bath is not more than 2 ft. deep; surely something might have been taken from the W. C. to admit elbow room. (I observe you have marked the plans wrong, the words "First Story" and "Second Story" should change places.)

6th. The bedrooms on the second story also by his plan would be without fire-places.

"Johannes" states that "any suggestions of emendation will be acceptable;" had he offered a premium for a plan containing less comfort, I think there would have been a difficulty in supplying his want. I have been induced to offer these remarks without the slightest wish to offend, but from a sincere desire to see a work (like THE BUILDER) which promises to effect a great and lasting benefit carried to its greatest perfection; and I always regret the insertion of articles which cannot have received due consideration.

I now come to the cost. Two houses built in the environs of London, with about the same number of rooms, but not so large, and all under one roof (not detached, as the kitchen, &c. in this instance), executed in the most economical manner, cost above 350*l.* Taking the cube contents of "Johannes" house at the same rate, it will amount to near 520*l.* and it is my firm opinion that a house like the one shewn could not be erected as your correspondent wishes, with stoves, &c., for a much less sum than 520*l.*

Scales are not usually attached to the drawings; it would not be any great trouble to your correspondents, but a great benefit to your readers.

B. E. N.

Marylebone, September 26th, 1843.

DESIGN FOR A SWISS COTTAGE.

SIR,—Will you be kind enough to permit me to speak a few words through your paper to Mr. T. George, of Hendon, in answer to his application to you to request some of your talented subscribers to furnish him with a design for a Swiss cottage.

I must surely be in error if I imagine Mr. George expects such a favour without undertaking to present a compliment in some degree adequate to the advantage he wishes to receive from the professional gentleman whose plan he would be pleased to adopt.

Now, Sir, as nothing of the kind is stated, allow me to suggest to Mr. George, as a gentleman in easy circumstances, who, it appears, can afford such a luxury, whether it would not be consistent with the character of a gentleman to hold out some honorary temptation to the successful competitor, say a silver snuff-box, or something of the kind, and I will venture to say Mr. George will have ample opportunity of selecting from the productions of our young architects a Swiss cottage worthy of his consideration.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

CHARLES ALLARD.

Tewkesbury, October 4.

MODELLING WAX.

YOUR correspondent "L." desires a good modelling wax; I have experienced the following to be excellent:—

1 pound finest white wax, 2 ounces flake white (bladder colour), 2 ounces Venice turpentine if in summer, 4 ounces if in winter. The turpentine to be ground on a stone with a muller, to which add a little vermilion when well ground, to be melted with the wax very slowly, and the flake white added at intervals. Pour out on a marble slate.

Oct. 3, 1843. NEMO.

IMPROVEMENT AND ENLARGEMENT OF LIVERPOOL.—In all probability, ever since Liverpool was a town, there never were more buildings going on than there are at present. During the last six months, the vacant land in the suburbs has been in great demand, and now, go where we will in the outskirts of the town, we find such numbers of new houses, that if they were all placed together, they would form a tolerably good-sized town. We believe we should be under the mark if we estimated the number at one thousand, which are now in course of erection, or have been built during the last six or eight months. Many of these houses are suitable for persons in the middle ranks, but the majority decidedly consist of cottages. Those of the latter description now in course of erection are all built according to the Act of Parliament, and when formed into courts, they have pretty ample space in front, with two good entrances, which will always secure a thorough ventilation, so long needed in houses of this description in the town. We understand that the present impulse in the building line has been principally caused by the recent Act of Parliament prohibiting cellars, which are too small, or otherwise unfit to live in, from being the dwelling places of the poor, and as vast numbers of the humbler classes have hitherto occupied such unhealthy places, great numbers of houses will be required when the act comes into operation, which will now be in a very brief space of time. In addition to the erection of houses, we have also to state that, during the same period, about a dozen fine warehouses have been erected in the north end of the town alone, exclusive of those erected on the site of the great fire in Formby-street.—*Liverpool Standard.*

LIST OF ENGLISH PATENTS.

(*From the Repertory of Patent Inventions.*)

[SIX MONTHS FOR ENROLMENT.]

Charles Louis Felix Franchot, of Arundel-street, Middlesex, civil engineer, and Cyprien Marie Tessie du Motay, of the same place, gentleman, for an improved method of connecting and laying pipes or vessels beneath the surface of water, for the purpose of forming therewith tunnels or viaducts for the conveyance of passengers and goods.—Sealed August 31.

George Catlin, of Queen-square, Bloomsbury, artist, for certain improvements in the constructing of vessels for navigation, designed to prevent the loss of life in cases of shipwreck or other accidents at sea.—Sealed September 4.

William Thomas, of Cheapside, merchant, for an improved fastening for wearing apparel, and which may also be applied as a fastening to portmanteaus, bags, boxes, books, and other things.—Sealed September 6. Communication.

Alexander Spears, of Glasgow, merchant, for improvements on or appertaining to glass bottles proper for wines and other liquids.—Sealed September 6. Communication.

Pierre Pelletan, of Fitzroy-square, Middlesex, Esq., for improvements in the production of light.—Sealed September 6.

William Denley, of Hans-place, Sloane-street, Middlesex, bricklayer, for certain improvements in the construction of fire-places, flues, and chimneys.—Sealed September 21.

John Baptist Wickes, of Leicester, framework knitter, for improvements in machinery employed in the manufacture of framework, knitted, and looped fabrics.—Sealed September 21.

George Robert D'Harcourt, of Argyll-street, Middlesex, gentleman, for improvements in sorting, checking, and delivering letters, newspapers, and other articles.—Sealed September 28.

Miscellanea.

THE NELSON MONUMENT.—It is now confidently stated that the figure of Nelson will be raised to the top of the column in Trafalgar-square on the 29th of October, the anniversary of the victory of Trafalgar. There will be a grand ceremony on the occasion, at which all the Greenwich pensioners are to be present. It has been suggested that the public should be permitted to inspect the statue some time previous to this day, to enable them to have a just idea of the beautiful workmanship of the artist, for the statue will otherwise be raised beyond the reach of minute criticism.

ANTIQUARIAN RESEARCHES.—Some interesting investigations are now in progress at Richborough Castle, the well-known Roman station, under the direction and at the expense of W. H. Rolfe, Esq., of Sandwich, a gentleman well known for his ardour and research in antiquarian pursuits. It appears that an excavation was commenced in 1822, to investigate the state of a subterranean wall and passage known to exist there, but which was relinquished after some abortive efforts. The work has now been renewed, and Mr. Rolfe states that he set six men to excavate the platform immediately opposite the extremity of the southern arm of the cross and its centre; the platform at this spot extends twenty-four feet beyond the end of the cross. Early in the afternoon the men came to another excavation previously made, into which they descended and explored to a considerable distance a passage along the south and north sides of the platform. On the following day they were chiefly employed in clearing away the stones and clay mixed with sand at the south of the excavation, upon entering which they found it similar to the one made in 1822, with a wall 12 feet from the under edge of the platform, extending in a northerly direction fifty-four feet nine inches, and continuing round to the north side to the distance of thirty-work. The extraordinary hardness of the Roman mortar, and the breaking of the tools in consequence, did not in the least dispirit the men, and at the close of the day's work, Mr. Rolfe says he found they had made an aperture of three feet within the wall, five feet in height, and about the same width. On the following day, they found themselves five feet through the wall at half-past five. Nothing of interest was found in the passage except the under part of a Roman vessel, of clay, having three legs, probably used for cooking. Some bones also were found. Some marble has been turned up of exquisite whiteness, in large and small fragments, one piece measuring two feet by one and a half feet, worked with mouldings, about eighteen inches below the surface, in sinking the shaft on Saturday. A correspondent says, that the subterranean wall in question is about one hundred and twenty feet long, and eighteen feet wide. There are various conjectures as to what may be found inside.—*Canterbury Journal.*

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